

STATINTL

FOREIGN AID

A Cut-Down Bill

Mauled and mutilated, slashed and sneered at, halt and hamstrung, the foreign aid authorization bill finally passed the U.S. Senate by a vote of 63 to 17. Missing was some \$800 million from the Administration's request of \$4.5 billion. Added was a spate of specified restrictions as to how, and for what reasons, the Administration could expend foreign aid funds.

A Bitter Protest. Facing the prospect of that slash, President Kennedy bitterly protested to his press conference: "If there are failures in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, and South Viet Nam and Laos, it is usually not a Senator who is selected to bear the blame, but it is the Administration—the President of the U.S. . . . I am just trying to make it very clear that I cannot fulfill my responsibility in the field of foreign policy without this program."

In the Senate, Oregon's Wayne Morse, a liberal Democrat and the foreign aid program's most vitriolic critic, retorted: "The President ought to be much less concerned about who is going to be blamed and much more concerned about proceeding to bring about the necessary reforms in the foreign aid program." With that, Morse and his colleagues went back to sawing off more pieces of the bill.

During the final hours of debate, South Dakota's Republican Senator Karl Mundt introduced an amendment that would have prohibited the use of the Export-Import Bank to guarantee Russian payments to commercial traders in the U.S.-Soviet wheat deal. That threatened to throw the aid bill or the wheat deal—or both—back into a welter of confusion and conflict. Only under the urging of both Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield and Minority Leader Everett Dirksen did Mundt finally agree to withdraw his amendment and to submit it later as separate legislation.

Only Half the Struggle. That withdrawal cleared the way for Senate passage. The Senate version next goes to a conference committee to be squared with a House bill authorizing \$200 million less. Ordinarily, foreign aid conferees pretty much split the House-Senate differences, which would make this year's foreign aid authorization come to about \$3.6 billion.

But the authorization is only half the struggle. After that, the Congress must approve the actual appropriations. For years Louisiana Democrat Otto Passman, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's foreign operations subcommittee, has been trying to cut foreign aid to the barest bone. But in the climate of the 1963 Congress, Passman seems likelier than ever to have his way. And what does he say? He says: "Any money that is not spent would be a waste of money."

DIPLOMACY

The Party Line

(See Cover)

Above the clink of crystal goblets and the beat of a twist tune wafted shreds and snippets of conversation. "Looks like Pierre made a party on the way." "No, darling, these models don't have a thing on underneath. They don't have anything to hide." "Look at Ethel go! Where does she get the energy?" "Look, McCone is actually smiling!" "I would love to see Allen Dulles twist." Floating among the crowd of 300 smartly-dressed people was the hostess, a tawny blonde, her hair bouffant, her gown a new Cardin, her perfume by Dior. At

the [redacted] tered houses of Georgetown and the row of embassies along Massachusetts Avenue.

From September to May, there are roughly 200 official parties a month in Washington, perhaps 20 times as many private ones. "During this season," says one diplomat, "there is hardly time between gulps of champagne and mouthfuls of canapés to think of anything but your feet, your stomach and your head"—and all three ache.

Keeping the merry-go-round whirling are the city's hostesses. There are dozens of them, ranging from the First Lady down to the newest Texas millionairess, who figures all she needs to



NICOLE & GUESTS AT FRENCH EMBASSY'S CARDIN FASHION SHOW*
The most important thing in life is giving a superb party.

1:30 a.m. her husband, Hervé Alphan, 56, the French Ambassador to the U.S., disappeared into an elevator on his way to bed. By 3:30 a.m. the last guests had departed, and Nicole Alphan, surveying all the bereft buffet trays and empty champagne bottles, smiled. It had been a good party.

The Merry-Go-Round. Giving good, and sometimes superb, parties is the most important thing in Nicole Alphan's life. It sounds like a frivolous occupation, but her husband often gets more done in ten minutes of quiet conversation at one of Nicole's dinners than in a day of shuffling papers. For in Washington the dinner table is merely an after-hours extension of the office desk, and at 5 p.m., when the lights wink off in thousands of offices all over town, the working day is only half over. Then the Senators and socialites, the

succeed is a wad of money and a big house, just like Dolly Harrison in *Advise and Consent*. But on the New Frontier, where talent and power are the most negotiable currency, the moneyed matrons are out and the "official" hostesses—the wives of ambassadors and Administration officials—are in. Short of a summons to dinner at the White House, few invitations are treasured as highly as those to 2221 Kalorama Road, N.W., site of the grey stone, Tudor-

* Center front, Hostess Alphan and Mrs. Joseph Alsop. Around them, from left, Mme. Bruno de Leusse, wife of embassy's Minister Counselor; Mrs. Tomas de Kun, *Diplomat* Magazine photographer; French Embassy Counselor Pierre Pelen; Alphan Nephew Oliver Martin (leaning on wall); British Foreign Officer Frederick Werner; Mrs. John Sherman Cooper; Long Island Socialite Mrs. John Akin. Upper right, USIA Deputy Director Donald M. Wil-